



Using Service as a Solution

Michigan Community Service Commission

What is the Michigan Community Service Commission?

Michigan is a generous state for service with 2.3 million adults volunteering in 2009. These volunteers' 308 million service hours have an economic value equivalent to \$6.2 billion. The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC), acting as the state's lead agency on volunteerism, strives to increase these efforts and impact by promoting service as a strategy to address Michigan's toughest challenges.

Each day, the MCSC looks to build a culture of service by providing vision and resources to strengthen communities through volunteerism.

The MCSC achieves its mission by:

- Providing leadership to support, promote, and expand volunteerism,
- Securing and delivering resources to expand programming and excellence in volunteering and service,
- And focusing on the critical community needs identified at the local, state, and national levels.

The MCSC, through the Corporation for National and Community Service, funds national service programs in Michigan, in the form of AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve. It also supports a variety of other initiatives related to service and volunteerism.

The MCSC is housed in the Michigan Department of Human Services.

MCSC National Service Initiatives

In 2010-2011, the MCSC is funding **26 AmeriCorps programs** and **1,211 members** through its **Michigan's AmeriCorps** initiative. These members serve in nonprofits and schools throughout the state addressing some of Michigan's most critical challenges.

Over the next year, members will provide foreclosure prevention and financial counseling, help ex-offenders re-enter society, assist homeless individuals in finding permanent housing, organize literacy and tutoring programs for underperforming youth, and support health care services to the most needy – among other things. They will accomplish this with the help of the more than **24,000 local volunteers** they will recruit.

As a result of their service, Michigan's AmeriCorps members will earn an estimated **\$2 million** in education awards to pay for college, vocational training programs, or to repay student loans.

This year, the MCSC is also funding **25 Learn and Serve programs** in Michigan K-12 school districts through its **Learn and Serve – Michigan** initiative. Service-learning is a teaching and learning approach that connects meaningful service to the community with classroom instruction that when done well enriches learning, teaches civic responsibility, and fosters personal growth.

The programs, with the help of nearly **1,000 teachers**, will engage at least **50,000 students** in service-learning activities this year. More than **5,000 adult volunteers** will also assist Learn and Serve – Michigan programs in completing community-revitalization projects focused on issues such as: health education, food collection/distribution, child literacy, recycling, animal welfare, and others.

Service-learning creates a commitment among young people to be part of the solution – and also increases their likelihood of a lifetime of volunteerism.

"The Michigan Community Service Commission looks to blend the influx of AmeriCorps programming, expansion of service-learning, impact of mentoring, and current statewide needs to reach vulnerable and at-risk populations in our state. By investing in service we can tackle our communities' toughest challenges and move our state past any difficult times we may face."

James G. Vella
Chair, Michigan
Community Service
Commission



MCSC Initiatives

The Michigan Community Service Commission desires for all youth to successfully transition to adulthood and reach their full potential through its **Mentor Michigan** initiative. Mentor Michigan supports nearly **250 mentoring programs** with training, research, partnerships, and building public awareness. A 2010 survey of 137 of those programs shows **23,706 children** were served by mentors. Michigan also had **17,681 active mentors**.

Launched in December 2010, the MCSC's **Volunteer Michigan** initiative facilitates the increased recruitment, engagement, and tracking of volunteers to address key public safety or public health issues in communities across Michigan. It increases the capacity and infrastructure of organizations to more effectively engage volunteers, including those who are highly skilled, in Michigan communities. It also enhances local volunteer infrastructure through updated technology.

Each year, the MCSC honors **8 volunteers, organizations, and a business** for their commitment to volunteerism with **Governor's Service Awards**. These awards are given annually to the heroes of Michigan who are helping to solve community issues.

The Michigan Community Service Commission strives to engage citizens across the state in annual National Days of Service. For example, as part of the **2010 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**, more than **5,200 citizens** were engaged in **51 service projects** that impacted more than **15,000 individuals**.

"State service commissions, including the Michigan Community Service Commission, are essential in the growth of service and volunteerism across the country. The MCSC's work leverages millions of dollars and engages thousands of citizens each year through AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve, and other volunteer initiatives."

Patrick Corvington
CEO, Corporation for
National & Community
Service

Financial Impact

The Michigan Community Service Commission is granting more than **\$9 million in Federal Funds** to local communities for volunteer programs and activities in 2009-2010.

That includes **\$7,993,502 in Federal Funds** for Michigan's AmeriCorps programs, **\$476,489 in Federal Funds** for Learn and Serve – Michigan programs, and **\$486,913 in Federal Funds** for Volunteer Michigan programs.

This year, those Michigan's AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve – Michigan, and Volunteer Michigan programs will leverage more than **\$6.75 million in Match Funds** in their local communities.



1048 Pierpont, Suite 4
Lansing, MI 48913
(517) 335-4295
Fax: (517) 373-4977
www.michigan.gov/mcsc